

# 2022 ECONOMIC REPORT ST. LOUIS REGION



DEPARTMENT OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION &  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The St. Louis Region is comprised of five counties and is located in the east central part of Missouri. The region is home to several cities including Arnold, Washington, St. Charles, St. Peters, Florissant, O'Fallon, Chesterfield, and the City of St. Louis.

The St. Louis Region workforce has more than 1,026,200 employees, making up 35 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2021, 49.7 percent of the workforce was female and 50.3 percent was male, which is similar to the Missouri average. The regional average unemployment rate for 2021 was 4.5 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the St. Louis Region, a trend continuing throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2021, 24 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 19 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 23.3 percent of the workforce was non-white and 3.3 percent was Hispanic or Latino. This compares to the state averages of 17.6 percent non-white and 4.5 percent Hispanic or Latino.

In the St. Louis Region, 8.5 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 6.9 percent and the U.S. was at 23.1 percent.

The St. Louis Region has a lower percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state, but evenly matched to the nation. For the St. Louis Region, 10 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12.2 percent in Missouri and 10.3 percent in the U.S.

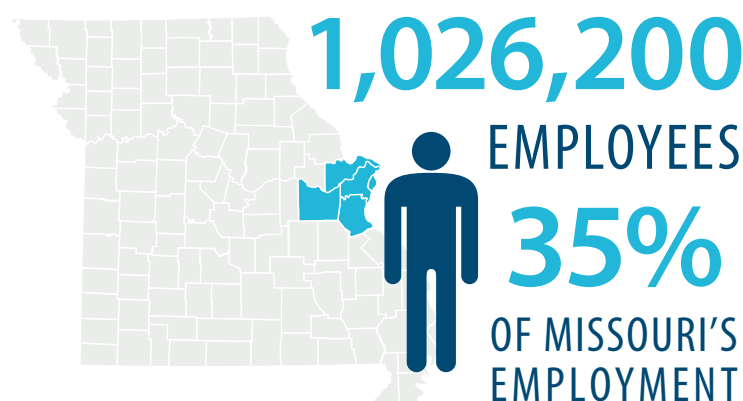
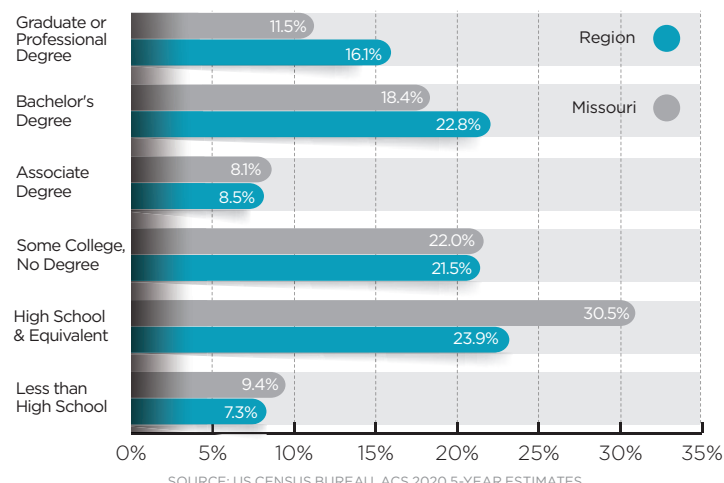
## Workforce Demographics

	St. Louis MO	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2021	1,026,238	2,928,368	152,580,667
Average Unemployment Rate in 2021	4.5%	4.4%	5.3%
Male	50.3%	51.0%	50.3%
Female	49.7%	49.0%	49.7%
Non-White	23.3%	17.6%	23.7%
Hispanic or Latino	3.3%	4.5%	16.7%
Ages 55 or Older	24.0%	23.0%	23.0%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	10.0%	12.2%	10.3%
Below Poverty Level (Ages 18-64)	9.5%	12.6%	12.1%
Language other than English	8.5%	6.9%	23.1%
Education Associate Degree or Higher	47.3%	38.0%	41.6%

SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2020-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2021

Educational attainment rates for the St. Louis Region are greater than those of the state for bachelor's or advanced degrees. Forty-seven percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 38 percent for the state, and about 42 percent for the nation.

## Educational Attainment

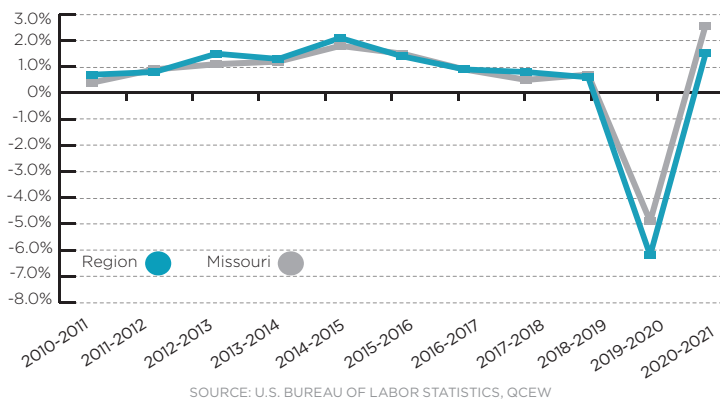


# ST. LOUIS REGION

## INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The St. Louis Region averaged over 1,030,400 jobs in 2021. The region gained 17,565 jobs, an increase of 1.7 percent from 2020 to 2021, whereas the region lost over 66,700 jobs from 2019 to 2020, a 6.2 percent decline due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, Missouri employment decreased by 4.9 percent, however Missouri employment increased by 2.5 percent in 2021, showing recovery from the pandemic impacts. From 2017 to 2021, the St. Louis Region averaged -0.08 percent compound annual growth for an overall decrease of 3.3 percent. During that same period Missouri's employment declined by 1.4 percent.

St. Louis Employment Annual Growth Rate



*Health Care and Social Assistance* is the largest employing industry in the St. Louis Region, with employment of over 184,200. *Retail Trade* is the second largest industry despite declining at an average rate of 1.8 percent a year since 2017. *Accommodation and Food Services* lost over 18,100 jobs in 2021 when compared to 2017. Most of this job loss was due to COVID-19 as this industry was particularly impacted by the pandemic.

*Manufacturing* grew at an annualized rate of 0.5 percent. The industry sector with the largest increase in employment was *Transportation and Warehousing*, with an increase of over 6,300 jobs, at a rate of 4.2 percent annually from 2017 to 2021.

St. Louis Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment		Net Change	2017-2021 Empl. CAGR	2020 Annual Wages
	2017	2021			
Health Care & Social Assistance	182,275	184,277	2,002	0.3%	\$56,484
Retail Trade	113,387	105,273	-8,114	-1.8%	\$37,092
Manufacturing	94,158	96,060	1,902	0.5%	\$77,232
Accommodation & Food Services	106,085	87,916	-18,169	-4.6%	\$22,500
Professional, Science & Tech. Servs.	72,852	74,916	2,064	0.7%	\$90,120
Administrative Support & Waste	82,689	74,273	-8,416	-2.6%	\$51,408
Educational Services	74,868	73,057	-1,811	-0.6%	\$51,636
Finance & Insurance	64,027	65,014	987	0.4%	\$102,360
Construction	55,706	58,415	2,709	1.2%	\$70,260
Wholesale Trade	54,155	55,368	1,213	0.6%	\$83,232
Transportation & Warehousing	35,554	41,904	6,350	4.2%	\$49,944
Mngt. of Companies & Enterprises	42,023	39,341	-2,682	-1.6%	\$107,592

SOURCE: LEHD QWI, 2017-2021 ANNUAL AVERAGES

## LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries with higher than 1.0 LQ indicate a concentration.

The St. Louis Region has higher concentrations in *Data Processing, Hosting, and Related Services*; *Management of Companies and Enterprises*; *Chemical Manufacturing*; and *Hospitals*.



HIGHEST 2021  
LQ 2.6

## DATA PROCESSING, HOSTING, AND RELATED SERVICES

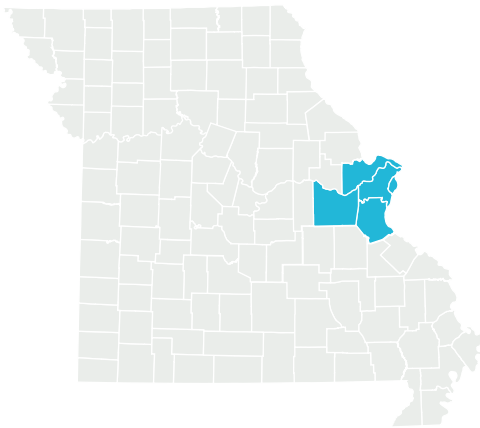
2021 St. Louis Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Data Processing, Hosting, & Related Services	7,634	2.6
Management of Companies & Enterprises	36,467	2.1
Chemical Manufacturing	11,775	1.8
Hospitals	62,325	1.6
Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing	3,411	1.5
Printing & Related Support Activities	4,077	1.5
Securities & Financial Invest. Activities	10,589	1.4
Machinery Manufacturing	11,499	1.4
Broadcasting (except Internet)	2,496	1.4
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	25,386	1.4
Social Assistance	40,819	1.4
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	30,495	1.3
Educational Services	26,285	1.2
Telecommunications	6,184	1.2
Lessors of Nonfinancial Intangible Assets	181	1.2

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

# ST. LOUIS REGION

Projected growth in industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest industry growth in the St. Louis Region from 2020-2030 will be in the *Food Services and Drinking Places*; *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*; *Administrative and Support Services*; *Ambulatory Health Care Services*; and *Hospitals* industries.



## St. Louis Region Largest Growth Industries 2020-2030

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2020 Estimated	2030 Projected	2020-2030 Numeric	Percent
Food Services & Drinking Places	71,753	89,529	17,776	24.8%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	64,921	72,429	7,508	11.6%
Administrative & Support Services	58,127	65,348	7,221	12.4%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	45,732	52,405	6,673	14.6%
Hospitals	67,779	74,144	6,365	9.4%
Educational Services	82,344	88,037	5,693	6.9%
Specialty Trade Contractors	33,339	37,133	3,794	11.4%
Accommodation, including Hotels & Motels	8,400	11,609	3,209	38.2%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	29,798	32,231	2,433	8.2%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Prof., & Similar Orgs.	26,101	28,251	2,150	8.2%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

## OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

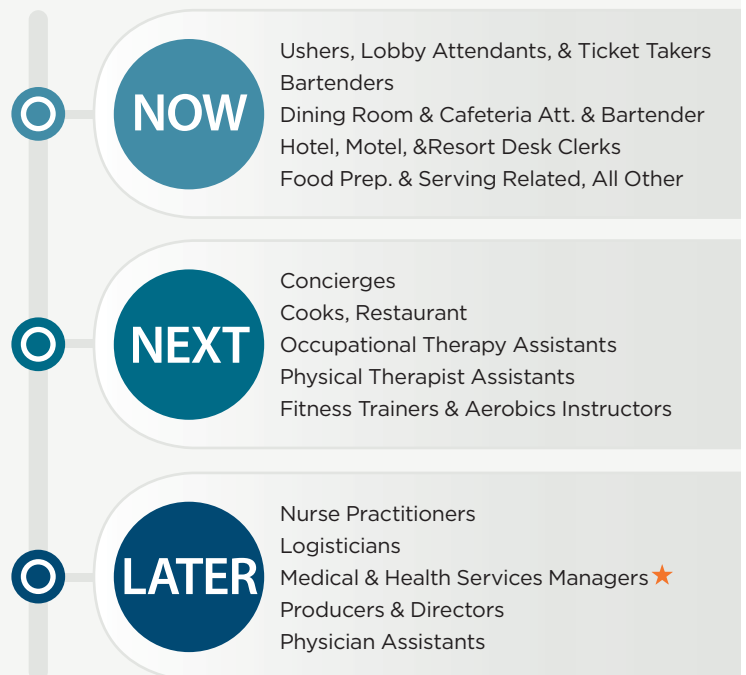
MERIC produces occupational projections that estimates labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

**Now** jobs typically require short-term, on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. Now occupations with the most projected openings are *Fast Food and Counter Workers*; *Home Health and Personal Care Aides*; and *Waiters and Waitresses*. *Ushers, Lobby Attendants, and Ticket Takers*; *Bartenders*; and *Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendants and Bartender Helpers* are projected to be the fastest growing Now occupations over the next decade.

**Next** jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate to long-term training. *Cooks*; *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers*; and *Nursing Assistants* are projected to have the most openings for the Next category of occupations. *Concierges*; *Cooks*; and *Occupational Therapy Assistants* are the fastest growing Next occupations.

**Later** jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For Later occupations, *General and Operations Managers*; *Registered Nurses*; and *Software Developers and Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers* are projected to have the most openings. *Nurse Practitioners*; *Logisticians*; and *Medical and Health Services Managers* are the fastest growing Later occupations.

## St. Louis Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH ANNUAL TOTAL OPENINGS OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR 2021-2022 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATIONS

# ST. LOUIS REGION

## St. Louis Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2020 Estimated Employment	2030 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
<b>NOW</b>							
Fast Food & Counter Workers	22,825	26,389	356	2,386	2,602	5,344	\$23,649 ★
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	33,152	39,921	677	2,339	2,069	5,085	\$24,244 ★
Waiters & Waitresses	16,546	20,094	355	1,345	2,188	3,888	\$20,703 ★
Retail Salespersons	28,734	28,041	-69	1,587	2,345	3,863	\$26,484 ★
Cashiers	19,311	17,087	-222	1,548	1,742	3,068	\$23,669

<b>NEXT</b>							
Cooks, Restaurant	10,232	15,517	528	758	1,102	2,388	\$26,404
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	12,972	14,080	111	554	917	1,582	\$52,641 ★
Nursing Assistants	11,993	12,618	62	788	697	1,547	\$26,088 ★
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	11,573	11,214	-36	668	582	1,214	\$41,390 ★
First-Line Supv. of Food Prep. & Serving Workers	6,415	7,910	150	320	730	1,200	\$33,098

<b>LATER</b>							
General & Operations Managers	23,638	25,990	235	496	1,538	2,269	\$96,825 ★
Registered Nurses	32,535	35,347	281	906	854	2,041	\$66,696 ★
Software Developers & Analysts and Testers	15,411	18,227	282	390	825	1,497	\$97,945 ★
Accountants & Auditors	12,873	13,709	84	370	787	1,241	\$71,382 ★
Proj. Mngt. Specialists & Business Op. Specialists	12,183	12,756	57	289	612	958	\$78,075

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2020-2030

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN FOR 2021-2022 ON-LINE JOB ADS IN THE REGION & WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION

## ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

Job postings are an indicator of demand and opportunities in an area and can assist individuals seeking job opportunities in current in-demand occupations. According to information based on online job posting data collected and aggregated by Lightcast™ for the Central Region, jobs like *Registered Nurses*; *Software Developers and Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers*; and *Retail Salespersons* had a high number of job postings in the region during the last year.

### St. Louis Region Top Five Online Job Postings in Now-Next-Later Classification

Occupation Title	Online Job Postings
<b>NOW</b>	
Retail Salespersons	9,255
Customer Service Representatives	7,260
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	5,991
Fast Food & Counter Workers	5,531
Janitors & Cleaners, Except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	4,151
<b>NEXT</b>	
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing, Except Technical & Scientific Products	9,067
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	6,790
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	6,391
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	4,577
Medical Dosimetrists, Medical Records Specialists, & Health Technologists & Technicians, All Other	4,339
<b>LATER</b>	
Registered Nurses	17,264
Software Developers & Software Quality Assurance Analysts & Testers	14,515
Computer Occupations, All Other	7,736
Personal Service Managers, All Other; Entertainment & Recreation Managers, Except Gambling; & Managers, All Other	6,136
Medical & Health Services Managers	4,718

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST™ (FORMERLY EMSI BURNING GLASS TECHNOLOGIES), ONLINE JOB ADS FROM JUNE 1, 2021 TO MAY 31, 2022

This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report. This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.